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A PEACE CORPS FOR HENRY - N. Y. TIMES, PAGE 21

C.L. SULZBERGER--FOREIGN AFFAIRS--JERUSALEM:

HENRY KISSINGER'S RETURN TO THIS FAMOUS ANCIENT CITY MARKED HIS SECOND ANNIVERSARY SINCE DESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S GIFT IS AGREEMENT TO WHAT IT CALLS A UNITED STATES "PEACE CORPS" ESTABLISHED IN THE SINAI PASSES AND EVACUATION OF THOSE STRATEGIC BARRIERS IN EXCHANGE. THIS WILL ALLOW A NEW INTERIM STAGE IN THE SLOW MARCH TO SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES, THE MOST LUCID CABINET MEMBER, PUTS THE IDEA ACCORDINGLY: "THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES ARE COMPOSED OF TWO MAJOR PARTS, THE ROADS GOING THROUGH THEM AND THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING THEM. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE ROADS, NOT THE MOUNTAINS. ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO YIELD THE ROADS, PROVIDED IT IS PROPERLY INSURED THEY WON'T FALL INTO IRRESPONSIBLE OR UNSTABLE HANDS.

"FOR THAT REASON, IN THE WAKE OF AN ISRAELI PULLBACK, THE ROADS WILL COME UNDER A DOUBLE CHECK--THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE AND UNITED STATES TECHNICIANS AND WARNING STATION. THE U.N.E.F. HAS TO SERVE THE WHIMS AS WELL AS THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BUT THE US TECHNICIANS WILL SERVE AS TRUSTEES OF BOTH SIDES, A SORT OF PEACE CORPS IN AN UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENT.

"THE PEACE CORPS WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DEMONSTRATE THE STABILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. THIS WILL BE AN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT--BUT IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE, NOT DEFENSE. IF THERE HAD BEEN A US WARNING FORCE IN SHARM EL SHEIKH WHEN WE EVACUATED IT IN 1957 I WONDER IF THE EGYPTIANS WOULD EVER HAVE RETURNED TO THE STRAITS OF TIRAN. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN

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SAVED TWO ADDITIONAL WARS (1967 AND 1973), BUT THE INSTABILITY OF THE UN FORCE IN SINAI SERVED AS A TEMPTATION TO EGYPT."

THIS CONCEPT, LABORIOUSLY WORKED OUT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BROKERAGE BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO AND NOW ON THE VERGE OF FORMAL ACCEPTANCE, RESULTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DIPLOMATIC INGENUITY. IT FORESEES CONTINUATION OF AN ARMED UN SINAI PATROL BUT THE MANNING OF ELECTRONIC WARNING APPARATUS AT THE PASSES BY AMERICAN CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS. THEY WOULD BE THERE TO CAUTION EVERYONE INVOLVED OF TRESPASSING BY EITHER ISRAEL OR EGYPT.

IN A SENSE, THIS IS COMPARABLE TO THE TEAMWORK BETWEEN MACHINERY AND MAN EMPLOYED IN UNITED STATES MOON EXPLORATIONS WHERE HUMAN GUIDANCE ON THE SPOT SUPERVISED GATHERING OF MECHANICAL INFORMATION. THE IDEA IS ENDORSED BY JERUSALEM AND CAIRO ALTHOUGH HERE IT MUST BE APPROVED FIRST BY PREMIER YITZHAK RABIN'S CABINET, THEN BY A KNESSET (PARLIAMENT) SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM A LARGELY SKEPTICAL PUBLIC OPINION.

THE AMERICAN ROLE MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. DIPLOMATICALLY, HOWEVER, NOT MUCH DISTANCE REMAINS TO BE COVERED. IT IS LARGELY A QUESTION OF LESSER ARGUMENTS CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF STATIONS AND TECHNICIANS TO BE INSTALLED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE FRAMING OF ACCORDS ON A NEW UNEF MANDATE.

MR. RABIN HAS TO HANDLE THE TOUGH JOB OF CONVINCING VOICIFEROUS DOUBTERS AND OPPOSITION DEPUTIES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAYS: "I AM NOT TRYING TO BELITTLE THE RISKS OF ISRAEL IN THIS POLICY OF REACHING A NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE RISKS. AND THERE IS A HOPE OF BEGINNING TO MOVE IN NEW DIRECTIONS. I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE COULD COME ABRUPTLY. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IT WILL BE A LONG PROCESS THAT MUST START WITH THE KEY ARAB COUNTRY, EGYPT."

ONE FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR THIS CAUTIOUS VIEW IS RECOGNITION THAT ISRAEL, AS IT HAS PROVED, CAN WIN BATTLES IF NOT WARS (IN THE SENSE OF PERMANENT VICTORY) BUT IF IT LOST A BATTLE THAT WOULD MEAN LOSING A WAR. THIS QUINTESSENTIAL TRUTH HAS PRODUCED A DEFENSE POLICY CONSONANT WITH ISRAEL'S SIZE. IT ACKNOWLEDGES ISRAEL CAN NEVER BECOME A GOLIATH IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE HUGE ARAB WORLD AND MUST THEREFORE BE A BETTER-EQUIPPED DAVID.

THE ANTICIPATED NEW AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT HASN'T ALTERED THAT MILITARY CONCEPT. THE ARMS FLOW FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO ALLOW ISRAEL SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO FACE UNEXPECTED DANGERS. AS MR. PERES SAYS: "WE WOULDN'T BE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS NOW IF WE WERE FEELING WEAK AND FORLORN."

AND THE DUAL CONCEPT OF AN ARMED UNEF POLICING INTERIM BORDERS, BACKED BY A UNITED STATES WARNING FORCE THAT WON'T BE OUSTED BY INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES, MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE EXPANDED TO SUIT PERMANENT FRONTIERS FIXED BY ACCORD BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS IN THE COMPLEX PARLEYS YET TO COME.

BUT IT MUST STILL BE DEMONSTRATED TO WORRIED ISRAELI HARD-LINERS THAT THIS FORMULA WILL ACTUALLY FACILITATE ULTIMATE

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